

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI

GEORGE WELCH PLAINTIFF  
V. CAUSE NO. 3:20-CV-122-NBB-JMV  
CITY OF HERNANDO, MISSISSIPPI,  
OFFICER JOSEPH HARRIS, OFFICER  
ROBERT SCOTT, OFFICER R. SWATZYNA,  
OFFICER A. LEWIS, IN THEIR OFFICIAL  
AND INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES, AND JOHN  
AND JANE DOES 1-10 DEFENDANTS

VIDEO DEPOSITION OF JOSEPH HARRIS

Taken at the instance of the Plaintiff on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at the Hernando Police Department, 2601 Elm Street, Hernando, Mississippi, beginning at 10:05 a.m.

(Appearances noted herein)

REPORTED BY: Courtney R. Taylor, CCR, TLC  
Alpha Reporting A Veritext Company  
236 Adams Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

1 A. The morning?

2 Q. Yeah.

3 Had you had -- had you had any  
4 conversations regarding -- with any other officers  
5 regarding whether or not they had been to that  
6 location and talked to anybody at that particular  
7 location?

8 A. The same morning that I went out there?

9 Q. Yes, sir.

10 A. No.

11 Q. All right. Had you heard anything about  
12 that -- that location prior to that morning?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What had you heard about that --

15 A. That there was --

16 Q. -- location?

17 A. -- that there was a complaint from the  
18 previous night about the vehicle parked on the crest  
19 of a hill, blocking one lane of traffic.

20 Q. Who had you heard that from?

21 A. From the pass-downs.

22 Q. From whom?

23 A. It was pass-downs between shifts --

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. -- when the night shift comes in and the

1 day shift comes on.

2 Q. All right. And what time did you arrive  
3 that morning, roughly -- or -- or what time would  
4 your shift have started that morning?

5 A. 6:00 --

6 Q. And --

7 A. -- p.m. -- 6:00 a.m.

8 Q. -- and so you were on -- that's the morning  
9 shift?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And, usually, that's 6:00 until --

12 A. 6:00 --

13 Q. -- 6:00 --

14 A. -- p.m.

15 Q. -- 6:00 -- so 12-hour shifts, right?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. All right. And you arrived there, and you  
18 do, what, roll call or have a morning -- and they go  
19 through the pass-downs about the night before?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. All right. When you received the  
22 night-before pass-downs, had you determined that you  
23 might go out there, or it was just something that  
24 you read and -- and moved on?

25 A. Something I read and moved on.

1           Q. All right. At that point did you make the  
2 determination that you should -- that you were going  
3 to go out to that location?

4           A. Because I was dispatched to a call.

5           Q. Now, when a -- a call comes across on a  
6 dispatch, do you just -- when you hear it, you say  
7 "Oh, I'm close to that location" and call back in  
8 and say, "Hey, I'm" -- "I'm heading to that  
9 location"?

10          Is that how that works, or do they  
11 specifically say, "Hey, Mr. Harris, where are you --  
12 oh -- "Officer Harris, where are you? Can you go to  
13 this location"?

14          A. That sent me, yes.

15          Q. Okay. Who -- who sent you?

16          A. I don't recall the dispatcher's name.

17          Q. Why did they send you?

18          A. I don't -- I don't know.

19          Q. Did that happen often, where they send a  
20 specific person to a specific location?

21          A. It was just -- I mean, yeah.

22          Q. I thought that you would get a -- a call  
23 through dispatch, and there will be other officers  
24 that'll testify -- an officer testified earlier as  
25 well --

1 CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

2 I, Courtney R. Taylor, Court Reporter and Notary  
3 Public in and for the County of Bolivar, State of  
4 Mississippi, do hereby certify that the foregoing 136  
5 pages, and including this page, contain a true and  
6 accurate transcription of the testimony of Joseph Harris,  
7 as taken by me in the aforementioned matter at the time  
8 and place heretofore stated by stenotype and later reduced  
9 to typewritten form under my supervision by means of  
10 computer-aided transcription.

11 I further certify that under the authority  
12 vested in me by the State of Mississippi that the witness  
13 was placed under oath by me to truthfully answer all  
14 questions in this matter.

15 I further certify that I am not in the employ of  
16 or related to any counsel or party in this matter and have  
17 no interest, monetary or otherwise, in the final outcome  
18 of this proceeding.

19 Witness my signature and seal this the 9th day  
20 of June, 2021.

21 

22 COURTNEY R. TAYLOR, CCR #1668

23  
24  
25 My Commission Expires: August 19, 2023